

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2302

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CG

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE: GOZ DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 2250, (B) STATE 56056

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA CALLED ME OVER LATE THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 14, TO REVIEW VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC STEPS WHICH GOZ HAS TAKEN OR PLANS TO TAKE VIS-A-VIS OTHER AFRICAN STATES. NGUZA SAID, THAT, FOLLOWING MY MEETING WITH MOBUTU THIS MORNING (REF A), THE PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO STEP UP GOZ'S OVERALL DIPLOMATIC EFFORT ON SHABA ATTACK.

2. NGUZA CONFIRMED AND ELABORATED ON WHAT MOBUTU TOLD ME THIS MORNING: GOZ ROVING AMBASSADOR LENGEMA LEFT TODAY TO CONSULT WITH A NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, STARTING WITH ZAMBIA WHERE HE WILL AWAIT KAUNDA'S RETURN FROM MOZAMBIQUE. HE WILL THEN MOVE ON TO FOLLOWING COUNTRIES (NOT NECESSARILY IN THIS ORDER): RWANDA, BURUNDI, TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA, SUDAN, EGYPT, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, TOGO, CAMEROON AND GABON. NGUZA SAID WITH PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS (E.G., SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA) LENGEMA WILL (A) REVIEW ZAIRE'S RECORD OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, AND (B) SEEK CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH

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THOSE GOVERNMENTS ON SOVIET/CUBAN STRATEGY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF AFRICA AND WAYS BY WHICH AFRICAN MODERATES AND WESTERN POWERS MIGHT COOPERATE IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE. WITH "LESS FRIENDLY" AFRICANS (E.G., TANZANIA, NIGERIA) LENGEMA IS INSTRUCTED TO LIMIT HIS DEMARCHE TO REVIEWING ZAIRE'S RECORD ON NORMALIZATION EFFORTS AND TO CONVEYING GOZ'S VIEW OF SHABA ATTACK. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, NGUZA SAID LENGEMA WILL SPECIFICALLY ASK KAUNDA TO

APPEAL TO NYERERE TO WEIGH IN WITH ANGOLANS.

3. IN ADDITION, NGUZA WILL CALL IN ALL OAU AMBASSADORS IN KINSHASA TOMORROW, MARCH 15, TO BRIEF THEM ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA. NGUZA REMINDED ME THAT GOZ HAD ALREADY SENT LETTER TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL CONVEYING GOZ EXPLANATION OF SITUATION AND ASKING HIM TO TRANSMIT THIS EXPLANATION TO OAU MEMBERS.

4. FINALLY, TOGO FOREIGN MINISTER, KODJO WILL VISIT KINSHASA TOMORROW FOR CONSULTATIONS. NGUZA WILL PROPOSE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU THAT, FOLLOWING BILATERAL TALKS, GOZ APPROACH KODJO IN HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER OAU MINISTERS ON UNDERTAKING OAU INVESTIGATION OF SHABA BORDER ATTACK. NGUZA THOUGHT KODJO, AS CHAIRMAN, MIGHT POSSIBLY CONDUCT INVESTIGATION HIMSELF ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL. NGUZA CAUTIONED ME THIS WAS HIS OWN IDEA AT THIS POINT, AND SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IF PRESIDENT MOBUTU GIVES HIM GREEN LIGHT TO GO AHEAD.

5. COMMENT: MOBUTU NOW CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN AFRICAN CONTEXT, AND I HAVE EXPRESSED MY SATISFACTION TO NGUZA THAT GOZ APPARENTLY INTENDS TO MOVE AHEAD ENERGETICALLY IN THIS AREA. DURING OUR DISCUSSION NGUZA SAID HE DID NOT AT THIS TIME FAVOR MAKING A FORMAL APPEAL TO ENTIRE OAU FOR INVESTIGATION OF BORDER ATTACK BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD THAT RADICAL MEMBERS WOULD EITHER OPPOSE ZAIRE'S REQUEST OR FIND WAYS OF TURNING IT TO ANGOLA'S ADVANTAGE. HENCE HIS IDEA OF WORKING DIRECTLY WITH TOGOLESE CHAIRMAN OF OAU COUNCIL
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OF MINISTERS, WHO NGUZA CLAIMS IS GOOD FRIEND OF ZAIRE. AS FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL, NGUZA THOUGHT GOZ SHOULD NOT NOW GO BEYOND INFORMING COUNCIL OF SHABA ATTACK (AS IT ALREADY HAS), NOTING THAT IT WOULD BE WORSE TO SEEK AND FAIL TO GET POSITIVE COUNCIL ACTION THAN TO NOT TRY AT ALL.

4. IF DEPARTMENT HAS COMMENTS ON NGUZA'S IDEA RE OAU INITIATIVE OUTLINED ABOVE, I SHOULD RECEIVE THEM BEFORE TOGOLESE COMES TO TOWN TOMORROW.

5. DEPT PLEASE REPEAT AS DESIRED.
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